

CONSPIRACIES ASSASSINATION

DRAWER 9B-~~continued~~ REACTION SERIES

71.2009 685.04652



Civil War Reactionaries

Early Assassination Conspiracies

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Baltimore Times and
Sept 28, 1861

BC

MR. LINCOLN'S ENTRANCE INTO WASHINGTON. The reasons which impelled the President elect to avoid a public reception in Baltimore, and to pass privately through that city, are variously given by different presses. But facts are daily coming to light, which show that the new President acted wisely. The character of the crowd at Baltimore awaiting the train in which Mr. Lincoln was expected, is sufficiently developed by the description of the Baltimore Republican, copied on the first page. Other accounts state that Mr. Lincoln would have been protected by two or three thousand "Union" men, who, however, intended to hush the Republican Committee of Baltimoreans which went to Harrisburg for the purpose of accompanying Mr. Lincoln to Baltimore. These revelations, taken in connection with the unenviable reputation for malicious rowdiness fastened upon the last named city, would seem to be a complete justification of the President in so shaping his course as not to give its "plug uglies" an opportunity—which they would have rejoiced at—of insulting the chief magistrate of the nation, even if he were saved from personal injury.

The New York Commercial Advertiser closes its account of this transaction with these observations:

When the truth is known, it will doubtless appear that the authorities of Baltimore are really glad that Mr. Lincoln passed that city as he did; possibly because they could not keep in order the turbulent elements of their community, and just as likely because they could not brook the demonstration sure to be made by the Baltimore Union and Republican men.

We have already quoted from the Lafayette (Indiana) Journal an account of the timely discovery of an obstruction placed on an Indiana railroad, with the evident design of throwing off the special train which conveyed Mr. Lincoln's party. The Syracuse (N. Y.) Journal of Saturday evening has another development of a similar character. It says:

We have been informed by gentlemen connected with the party of Mr. Lincoln since he left home for Washington, that there were several attempts to take his life made during the journey through Indiana and Ohio. The one which threatened the most serious consequences took place on the Presidential train leaving Cincinnati, when a grenade of the most destructive character was discovered in the car occupied by Mr. Lincoln, his family and personal friends. It was found in a small carpet bag, which had been deposited in a seat of the car by some unknown person. Attention was drawn to it from the fact that no baggage was allowed in the cars. On examination, the grenade concealed in the carpet bag was discovered to be ignited, and so arranged that within fifteen minutes it would have exploded with a force sufficient to have demolished the car and destroyed the lives of all persons in it. Of course, the "infernal machine" was speedily removed and properly disposed of.

✓ Mr. Lincoln was to leave Harrisburg at 9 o'clock Sunday morning, by special train, and the idea was, if possible, to throw the cars from the road at some point where they would rush down a steep embankment and destroy in a moment the lives of all on board. In case of the failure of this project, their plan was to surround the carriage on the way from depot to depot in Baltimore, and assassinate him with dagger or pistol shot.

The N. Y. Times insists upon the existence of this plot, though its assertion implies that LINCOLN was willing to sacrifice his wife, family and friends, whom he sent by the doomed train while he made good his own escape. "The Times says: *After Vague*

■ We have not the slightest doubt that the project of assassinating Mr. Lincoln has been seriously canvassed by very many persons in different sections of the country, nor that plans have been laid for its accomplishment. In regard to the recent alleged conspiracy, we have no doubt of its existence. *Feb 8 1866*

The proof the Times adduces, is the "Washington Correspondence" of the Philadelphia papers; and the unauthorized allegation that "Gen. Scott sent information to Mr. LINCOLN that a club of persons were sworn to accomplish his assassination. One of the fifteen was a secret agent of the Government, and divulged the plans of the junta as rapidly as they were matured."

The whole story is false; and worse than false; and the revelations which the Times adduces are silly inventions, got up to cover Mr. LINCOLN's ignominious flight. If not, let us have an investigation and exposure, in some authentic shape. If there is a conspiracy, let the participants be brought to justice. If not, let the American name be relieved of this foul stigma of assassination.

The N. Y. Tribune, assuming to speak by authority of the state of affairs in Baltimore, says:

"The facts, as given by Superintendent Kennedy, are substantially as follows: The police authorities had come to the conclusion that there would be little demonstration of any kind during Mr. Lincoln's passage through the city. Indeed, so firmly had they become convinced of this, and that there would be no riotous proceedings, that they had determined to employ a force of only twenty men for the special duty of attending to the route of the Presidential cortege through Baltimore. The reason alleged for this course was that they wished to demonstrate to the country and to the world, the law-and-order character of the city.

This coming to the ears of Gen. Scott, he at once declared that one of two things must be done: either a military escort must be provided for Mr. Lincoln at Baltimore, or there must be a *coup de main* by which he should be brought through the city unknown to the populace.— Under the circumstances, it was thought that the employment of a military escort might create undue excitement, and the cause of its being brought into requisition misinterpreted.— The alternative of employing stratagem was therefore determined upon.

Afterwards the police authorities agreed to turn out the whole force, though deeming twenty men enough. It was supposed at Baltimore up to the last minute that Mr. LINCOLN was on the train; and telegrams to the contrary were believed to be hoaxes. The committee of the Baltimore Common Council went on to Harrisburg to accompany Mr. L.; and of course would have shared his fate, if the train had been thrown off, and his danger, if pistols had been used.

This monstrous falsehood is too gross for human credulity, and it will be rejected. And those upon whom it has been attempted to palm it, will begin to suspect that the other fabrications from the same source (of Kansas outrages, Southern crime, secession desperation,) are equally false and unfounded. That will be the good use this bad lie will serve.

The Shirt-tail Plot—developments.

Alvan H. Williamson, a policeman, testifies before the New York Police Commissioners, that during the latter part of December he was summoned to the private office of Superintendent Kennedy, when a conversation took place in reference to the then existing rumormongers' plot to assassinate Mr. Lincoln. Mr. Kennedy, after complimenting Williamson on his skill as a detective, told him that he intended to send one or more detectives to Baltimore and Washington, for the purpose of ascertaining the reliability of the above rumor, and intimated that whether true or not, he (Kennedy) desired that it should appear to be true.

Williamson alleges that Mr. Kennedy then stated that he had been prominently spoken of as a candidate for the Marshalship of the Southern District of New York, and was desirous of being of service to Mr. Lincoln.

On the examination, Kennedy denied the whole story.

Adlaw & Argue
3/13/61

STARTLING DISCLOSURES!

FULL EXPOSURE OF THE O. S. L.

Deputy Grand Commander Heffren makes a Clean Breast of It!

THE OBJECTS OF THE ORDER.

The Northwestern Confederacy Scheme

The Secret Committee of Ten

MORTON TO BE ASSASSINATED!

Where the Money Came From.

THE REBELS FOOT THE BILLS.

NONE BUT DEMOCRATS ADMITTED.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

COURT ROOM, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.
November 4, 1864—2 o'clock P. M.

The Commission met pursuant to adjournment.

All the members present; also the Judge Advocate, the counsel and the counsel.

The Judge Advocate here stated that all proceedings against Colonel Horace Heffren were withdrawn on the part of the Government, that he was released from arrest by the proper authorities, and that he would now appear on the stand as a witness for the Government.

Colonel Horace Heffren, a witness for the Government, was then called to the stand, and being duly sworn by the Judge Advocate testified as follows:

The counsel for the accused said that when the accused were jointly indicted, as they are in this instance, that it was not competent for an accused to testify either for the defense or prosecution till a verdict of "not guilty" has been entered.

The Judge Advocate in reply said:

The Government can at any time or at any stage of the proceedings quash any set of charges and specifications against the accused, when the interests of their peace may seem to demand it, and with this for an aid of the case. When the Judge Advocate says to the accused, the Government withdraws its charges and specifications against you, the man is then free, without any proceeding pending against him. As to this Commission giving a verdict of acquittal, or proceeding to a finding before this witness can be used, let me say that it cannot proceed. It makes the finding and passes its sentence in any given case; the proceeding are then forwarded to the Commanding General convening the court for his approval and confirmation or disapproval. If it is a class of cases in which he has the power to execute the sentence, it is then promulgated in general orders and made known to the accused and to the world. If it is not a case in which the Commanding General has power to execute and carry into effect, he adds his approval or disapproval as the case may be, and forwards it to the proper authorities for approval, and then it is made known after being acted upon by the proper authority. In this case, for instance, the proceeding would not pass to the President of the United States, and be delayed perhaps for months.

The very nature and constitution of a military court precludes the possibility of the existence of any such a rule in this court.

Horace Heffren, a witness for the Govern-

ment, was then introduced, and being duly sworn by the Judge Advocate, testified as follows:

Question by the Judge Advocate:
Please state your name, place of residence, and business.

Answer. My name is Horace Heffren; residence, Salem, Washington county, Indiana; my profession, that of an attorney; my office is at Salem.

Q. How long have you resided there?

A. Since March, 1857.

Q. Please state to the Court whether you ever joined an Order called American Knights, or Order of Sons of Liberty. If so, when and where?

A. I joined an Order called American Knights, somewhere in the latter part of the year '63, probably in the month of November or December. I have no means of telling the precise time. I have not my diary of last year with me; if I had, I could tell the precise day.

Q. Did you belong to any similar Order or one with similar intents and purposes, of a different name previous to that?

A. I did not.

Q. Did you ever belong to the Golden Circle?

A. No, sir. I belong to the Freemasons, but to no other secret Order.

Q. At whose solicitation did you join the Order?

A. I do not know that I can say it was at the solicitation of any person. Mr. Bailey, of Terre Haute, came to Salem. I knew his face and recognized him, but could not call his name. He told me what his business was, and I got twelve more men besides myself, and we were taken into the Order of American Knights in my office.

Q. Who initiated you?

A. Mr. Bailey.

Q. Where does he reside now?

A. I understand he is dead. I have made inquiries since I have been in prison, and that is what I am told.

Q. You say this was in November?

A. November or December, 1863.

Q. Who else was initiated at that time?

A. James B. Wilson, William C. McCoskey, Adam Outshaw, DeLoss Heffren, Eli Bonser, William P. Green, and John B. Pitts. I think I am not certain about him; these are as far as I recollect now.

Q. What was the first Lodge or County Temple?

A. I was initiated after your initiation.

Q. You attempted to make my story connected, I must explain. I was elected after we had taken the three degrees as Grand Seignior of the County Temple; James Williams as Secretary, Adams Outshaw as Treasurer. The Lodge was in my office, in the town of Salem.

Q. When did you take the first, second, and third degrees?

A. I took the three degrees that very night.

Q. When did you next attend a County Temple?

A. There never was but one County Temple after that, in our county, to my knowledge; and that was for the election after my time was up.

Q. When was that?

A. It was on the 22d of February, 1864. I was instructed that there was to be a meeting on the 16th and 17th of February, and that, as Grand Seignior, I was the delegate from the County Temple. I came here and attended the meetings of the 16th and 17th; when there I was instructed that there was to be a new election of officers for the ensuing year, and we elected officers, probably a week from that time, when Logan was elected Grand Seignior in my place.

Q. Had you attended any meeting previous to the 16th and 17th of February?

A. That was the first and only one.

Q. How did you come to that meeting?

A. I was delegate from the County Temple.

Q. Who presided?

A. H. H. Dodd.

Q. Who was Secretary?

A. Mr. Harrison, who was a witness here.

Q. Did you meet any of the accused at that meeting?

A. I met Dr. Bowles there, and Mr. Milligan, I think, the second day. I did not see Mr. Humphreys; never met that gentleman any, when as a member of the Order of American Knights; I never met him except as a Free Mason. I never saw Mr. Horey till I came into court, and he was required to plead the same time as I was.

Q. At that meeting on the 16th and 17th of February you say you met Dr. Bowles and Mr. Milligan?

A. Yes, sir; Mr. Milligan on the second day, I believe.

Q. Give to the court the business transacted, and what you instructed was transacted at those meetings on the 16th and 17th of February.

A. The Grand Master read an address; certain committees were appointed—one, I think, upon a newspaper to disseminate the views of the organization, and educate the Democratic mind up to what was thought it ought to be; a committee upon literature was appointed; and a committee to see what a person by the name of Michael Mallott had been divulging the secrets of the organization.

Q. Who constituted those committees?

A. I could not tell.

Q. Were you on any committee?

A. I was, sir.

Q. On what?

A. To ferret out whether Mr. Mallott had been revealing the secrets of the Order.

Q. What did you do in pursuance of that?

A. We called the committee together, brought Mallott before us, and a person whose name I do not remember. We investigated all we could. Mr. McBride, of Evansville, was one of the committee; the others I do not remember. It was mere rumor and hearsay, and I told the committee that I professed to know something in regard to law, and I did not think that the evidence was such that we could report to the Grand Council that the man was guilty, and I recommended that we report that the man was not guilty of revealing the secrets.

Q. What was the evidence in case it did reveal about it that did the rules of his Order entail to the obligation?

A. I took no obligations, but do not know what they were.

Q. Do you not know what the penalties are for revealing the secrets of the Order?

A. I understand the penalty from what I have read, and what I knew at the time and have learned since, to be death, figuratively speaking.

Q. What do you mean by that?

A. The same as in other organizations.

Q. Was it a figure of speech, or was it to be carried out as fact?

A. That I cannot answer.

Q. Did you fear any punishment at that meeting, in reference to a man by the name of Coffey?

A. I do not think that I did; I do not recollect any person mentioning his name.

Q. Were you at the meeting of the 14th of June?

Q. Were not the military committees appointed on the 16th and 17th of February?

A. No, sir; they were not appointed in council, as I understood.

Q. Were any military appointments or elections made?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What were they?

A. Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Major Generals for the four divisions of the State, and Colonels, and I think Treasurer. Mr. Dodd was elected Grand Commander; I was elected Deputy Grand Commander; Mr. Milligan was elected Major General of his district.

Q. Was Mr. Milligan present at his election?

A. I cannot say that he was present till the second day, and the election of Major Generals took place on the first day, I believe. Mr. Humphreys was elected in his district. He was not present either day. Major McGrane of Harrison county, was elected in my district as Major General, and Colonel John O. Walker was elected for the Northwest district. The State was divided into four divisions. I do not know exactly how the lines ran, but they were divided by counties. Dr. Bowles lived in Orange county, and the line ran between Washington and Orange counties. Major McGrane lived immediately south of Washington. He and I roomed together, and we had a great deal of talk, and he told me that he would have nothing to do with it. The next morning Colonel Walker was elected to the southwestern division, in which Dr. Bowles was. Major McGrane declined, and Dr. Bowles was unanimously elected in place of McGrane.

Q. What other business of importance took place at either of these meetings?

A. The next thing I recollect was reports from some committees, about literature, and I

think a university, but I did not pay any attention to it. My impression is that we laid the matter on the table. I was on the committee with respect to the newspaper, and I think Mr. Bingham was on that committee with us, and we decided that it was all a humbug, and we would have nothing to do with it, but recommended an individual representative with regard to the newspaper. Matters in regard to the progress of the Order were also talked of, and reports were called for.

Q. What was said to be the strength of the Order at that time?

A. I do not know what the strength of the Order was.

Q. Was anything said about the aggregate number of the Order at that time?

A. I think the Secretary reported that he had not received returns from several counties, so that the correct number could not be ascertained.

Q. Of what political faith were the majority of the men comprising that organization?

A. They were all Democrats.

Q. State whether any other class of men were admitted, or was it a *sine qua non* that a man must be a Democrat?

A. I do not think any one would have got in unless he professed to be a Democrat.

Q. State to the court what were the general purposes and objects of that Order, so far as you learned.

A. In the first place, I understood there were two organizations, one within the other, the civil organization, to which the mass of the members belong, and which, as far as I ever knew, was purely political, to bring out the Democratic vote to the polls, and to insure the success of the principles of the Democratic party, by every means in our power to get every voter out to cast his vote; and as we had been told by those who instructed us, that it was the deliberate design and arrangement of the abolition party to prevent voting, we determined to have free light or a fair election. There had been told by members of the Order that the other portion of the organization had for its object the separating of the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and Kentucky from the Eastern States, and making a Northwestern confederacy; and failing in that, join our fortunes with the South. That was the design of it, which was not communicated or known to the members of the civil organization, and I presume I never would have known it had it not been for the position I held as Deputy Grand Commander.

Q. What proportion of the members belonged to the military portion of the organization?

A. Only the leaders; they were to control the matter through a committee of thirteen, who were to be known only to the Grand Commander and themselves. They were to so control us as to bring us into their trap. That was why I said it was a humbug, and said I would have nothing to do with it.

Q. Have any of the schemes of the Order come to your knowledge since then?

A. Yes, sir. The schemes of a few of the leaders of this military part of the Order, and the schemes of these were unknown to the great mass of the Order.

Q. Do you say that it was to these military leaders alone this was confined?

A. Yes, sir, I think so.

Q. Was Dodd considered a military leader?

A. He was; but there was a man over him.

Q. Who was that?

A. It was Dr. Bowles.

Q. Please to explain that.

A. The State was divided off into Military Departments, and there was an officer of the Military Department, who was Supreme Commander to the Grand Commander of the Civil Department, who had his Adjutant, Staff, &c. He controlled the Military Department, and saw to the arming, ammunition, and the procuring of funds.

Q. Then the civil was subservient to the military?

A. Yes, sir, and knew nothing, except the few who were in the confidence of the military.

Q. Did you ever learn who was on the staff of this military leader Dr. Bowles?

Q. Yes, sir; it is James B. Wilson; he told me so himself.

Q. What is the position he held?

A. He told me he was Adjutant General on Dr. Bowles's Staff. In fact, nearly all the information I ever received, except what I received on the 16th and 17th of February, I received from Mr. Wilson, after his return from Dr. Bowles's French Lick Springs, Graze county.

Q. What did you learn in reference to the arming of this Order?

A. I never understood that the men of the rank and file of the civil organization were to be armed, that is, at the expense of the Order.

Q. How were they to arm?

A. They were to do it themselves.

Q. Who was it that was to be armed by the Order?

A. These men who were to be under the control of the Commanding General, that is the military commander.

Q. How did they make this division as to who were to be armed by the Order, and who were to arm themselves?

A. There were certain men they selected to whom to communicate that which they would not do to communicate to everybody.

Q. Did they go into a town, for instance, and pick out the men that were to be armed by the Order?

A. I think not, sir.

Q. Then how could they tell whom they were to arm, and whom they could rely upon to arm themselves?

A. I do not know. They had a way of ascertaining the number of arms of different kinds that the members of the Order had; in this way, they would take a sheet of paper, and write it in columns, as for keeping a tally, heading each column with 'apple', corn, beans, or anything you please, as that you understand what these things were intended for. Apples, might be shot, or rifler, corn for shot-guns, beans for pistols, and potatoes for ammunition, and anything else for lead. This sheet would be a record of the number of arms found by those making the return.

Q. Was there any agreement between the members of the Order, as to how it should be understood by those to whom the report was made?

A. My instructions were to report by the secret cipher how many there were. Each Township Temple reported to the Secretary of the mother temple how many arms and how much ammunition they had, and then that Secretary reported to the Grand Secretary of the State Council.

Q. Do you know of any attempts on the part of the members of this Order to arm the Order?

A. I only know that from hearsay, from members of the Order. I only know what Mr. Wilson told me.

Q. Was Mr. Wilson a member of the Order?

A. Yes, sir, he was initiated when I was.

Q. What did he say to you?

A. He had been away to French Lick Springs, to Dr. Bowles. When he came back from there, myself, and I think Townsend Outshaw, a man by the name of Parker, and my impression is that Mr. C. McCorky was there sitting or standing at the Clerk's office door. The people in that country were at fever heat, anxious and uneasy, with rumors of this, that and the other; and the matter came up in that conversation in regard to resisting the draft, when Mr. Wilson pulled a roll out of his pocket, wrapped up like a bundle of paper, and said that these thousand dollars he had just got from Dr. Bowles, to procure arms and ammunition for our country, and there was plenty more where that came from.

Q. Did he say anything else?

A. Not at that time, but he did afterwards.

Q. What was that?

A. That there was half a million of dollars sent to Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky, I think, by rebel agents in Canada, for the purpose of procuring arms and ammunition for these Northwestern States, to arm themselves with.

Q. Who received this money in this State?

A. Mr. Dodd, I was told, and Mr. John C. Walker.

Q. By whom were you told?

A. By Dr. Wilson. I never got a word from Mr. Bowles, Mr. Humphreys, Mr. Milligan or Mr. Horsey, in my life.

Q. Who did he say received that money in this State?

A. I understood him to say Mr. Dodd and Mr. Walker.

Q. What amount did they receive?

A. A hundred thousand dollars each.

Q. How was it to be expended?

A. A portion of it was to go to Dr. Bowles, to be spent in his part of the State in purchasing arms and ammunition.

Q. For whom?

A. For the military order that had its connection with the Order of American Knights.

Q. When did you have this conversation with him?

A. It could not have been far from the middle of June, 1864. I think so from the fact that I was told a Grand Council was to be held here about that time, and it was shortly after that, that he and I had this conversation. It must have been in June.

Q. Did he get that information at that meeting?

A. I am not certain that he came to Indianapolis, but it was shortly after that meeting that he told me. Whether he went to the meeting or got it from Dr. Bowles, I can not say.

Q. Did you learn from him, or other members of the Order, for what purpose those arms were to be used after they were purchased and distributed to the members of the Order of American Knights?

A. I never heard how they were to be distributed, neither do I know to whom they were to be distributed; but I supposed, as a matter of course, they were to be distributed to members of the Order, and were to be used either to defend themselves from oppression and wrong, or to fight anything that came to fight them.

Q. Were, or were not these arms to be used in carrying out the purpose of the Order that you have detailed?

A. I understood they were to be used for the purpose of carrying out the military part of the organization of the American Knights.

Q. Do you know when the Order was changed?

A. I presume it was changed before June?

Q. Before you had this conversation with Dr. Wilson?

A. I think it was.

A. I understood you to say that the object of the military part of this Order was to establish a Northwest Confederacy in conjunction with the Southern Confederacy?

A. No, Sir. I understood the object to be to separate themselves from the Eastern States, and form a Confederacy of themselves; or else, failing to do that, join their fortunes to the Southern Confederacy.

Q. Then were, or were not those arms to be used in carrying out these objects of the military organization?

A. That was my understanding.

Q. Did you ever see more than this \$1,000 that you ever saw with Mr. Wilson?

A. I never did.

Q. Did you learn of any arms being bought by him?

A. He and I had very little talk for three months past; but I never heard of his offering to buy an arm or ammunition. I never learned from anybody that he did. I was asked what he did with the money, but I did not know.

Q. Were these military objects of the Order discussed either individually or publicly, at the meetings of the 16th and 17th of February?

A. The matter was talked of by some of us, perhaps a few of us in a corner, or off to one side.

Q. Did you at that time ever talk with Mr. Milligan or Mr. Bowles upon that subject?

A. Mr. Bowles was probably there one morning when we were talking about it. I remember there was something about his papers, about his being a Major General that did not suit him; and I know we had talks among ourselves, probably five or six of us at a time.

Q. Did there ever come to your knowledge at any time, any intention on the part of this Order to take possession of the State Government?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Detail to the Court what you learned in reference to that?

A. This I also received from the same source—Dr. Wilson. He told me that upon a certain day, the 16th, but whether of August or July I am not certain, of this year, there was to have been an uprising; the prisoners were to be released at the camp near Chicago. I think Camp Douglas—Camp Morton, that is, Camp near Columbus, Ohio. Camp Chase it is called, I believe. They were all to be released. The arsenals of the United States were to be seized, and the prisoners armed with the arms and equipments contained therein.

Q. What then was to be done?

A. Governor Morton was to be taken care of.

Q. What do you mean by being taken care of?

A. He was to be held as a hostage for those who might be taken prisoners, and engaged in the uprising. Dr. Athon was to be Governor, under the law of the State of Indiana, passed a few sessions since; in case of the Governor failing to serve, he would be Governor; we should call out the militia, and have everything our own way.

Q. In case you failed to capture Governor Morton, what then?

A. In case he was not captured and made hostage, he was to be made way with in some way, but I never was told how.

Q. After the arsenals were seized, these rebel prisoners armed, and the members of the Order armed, what was to be done by the members of the Order?

A. I did not understand that all the members of the Order were to take part; it was the military part, and as many as could be induced by excitement or any means, as many as could be drawn into it through the influence of the military leaders. Then the State Government was to go ahead, with the law and Constitution as we had it, except that Dr. Athon was to replace Governor Morton.

Q. Was this scheme known or imparted to any but members of the order?

A. Not that I ever knew of.

Q. State whether or not leading Democrats of the State were given this scheme?

A. Only to members of the Order; I never knew of its being communicated to any Democrat unless he was a member of the Order, and I think it was not.

Q. Did a man by the name of John Bowman, of Washington county, belong to this Order?

A. I never met him, but I understood he was a member. There were very few Democrats in our county (Washington) but what were members. I think Mr. Bowman knew nothing about it; at least not to my knowledge.

Q. Did you learn what was done at the meeting in New York on the 23d of February?

A. Nothing except that the ritual was changed. I am not certain whether that was in New York or Chicago.

Q. Do you know who this council of 16 were?

A. I do not know of such a council; never heard of it till I was arrested. I have some indirect knowledge of a council of thirteen.

Q. Was Dr. Wilson at that meeting in Chicago?

A. I cannot state.

Q. Did he tell you whether he was or not?

A. I am not positive, I do not think he did.

Q. You say you did have some indirect knowledge of the Committee of Thirteen? What was it?

A. I understood there was such a Committee; that it was appointed by the Grand Commander, and known only to him and the members themselves.

Q. Did you ever hear of the appointment of a Committee of Ten?

A. The Committee of Ten that I think you refer to was not a Committee. They were individuals selected, as my understanding was, to take care of Governor Morton.

Q. Did you learn who they were?

A. I did not.

Q. What do you mean by taking care of Gov. Morton?

A. To hold him as a hostage; or, in case he could not be held, whether he was to be killed, or not, I did not hear; but he was to be put out of the way by some means.

Q. They were to dispose of him and get him out of the way; how?

A. I cannot say; but they were to get rid of him in some way if he was not held as a hostage.

One of the counsel for the accused made the following remarks:

There are peculiar circumstances attending what has taken place this afternoon, and I regard it as my duty to make a statement which I ask to be put upon the records of this court. My relations to all parties here are well known to this Commission. I have not only been counsel for Mr. Heffren, but, as the records show, I am counsel for other defendants. It places me in rather a queer position before them, and perhaps before this court, and I de-

sire to make this statement, which I have put in writing, and which I ask to have put upon the records.

INDIANAPOLIS, Nov. 4, 1864.

May it please the Court:

Being counsel for Mr. Heffren, and also for other defendants on this trial, I deem it due to those other defendants, and to my own professional and personal honor, most solemnly to state to this Commission, and in the presence of those other defendant, that I had no knowl-

edge or intimation that the prosecution against said Heffren was to be abandoned, and that he was to be put on the stand as a witness, until in open court, he was called to the stand by the Judge Advocate; that I was in no wise, or by any person consulted in regard to it, that I never directly, or indirectly sought, or even entertained the idea of the bringing about of such a result.

(Signed.)

CYNTH L. DUNHAM.

The Commission then adjourned to meet on Thursday, November 10, at 2 o'clock P. M.

Indianapolis Daily Journal
11.5-7864



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2013

<http://archive.org/details/civilwarreactionlinc>

